

Communication

BioAgents iPhone App

The Center for Biosecurity at the University Of Pittsburgh Medical Center created a new, free [iPhone app](#) that provides information on bioagents and a special feature on zombies.

Research

Alert but Less Alarmed: A Pooled Analysis of Terrorism Threat Perception in Australia

Published in BMC Public Health, researchers study the disparities in terrorism threat perception among Australians. They utilized computerized telephone interviews in 2007 and 2010 among a relative sample of several groups in New South Wales to identify factors associated with higher perceived risk of terrorism and evacuation response intentions, and their changes over time. The survey showed Australians were more likely to believe that a terrorist attack would occur in Australia in 2010 than in 2007. The factors most likely associated with higher perceived risk include: middle age, female gender, lower education and higher reported psychological distress. The full study is available [online](#).

Clinical and Socioeconomic Impact of Different Types and Subtypes of Seasonal Influenza Viruses in Children during Influenza Seasons 2007/2008 and 2008/2009

Researchers in BMC Infectious Diseases study the clinical presentation and socio-economic impact of different strains of laboratory-confirmed influenza infection in children presenting to the emergency room with influenza-like illness. 901 children were enrolled in the study with 143 (A/H1N1), 519 (A/H3N2) and 239 (influenza B). The research showed A/H1N1 affected younger children while A/H3N2 showed more severe illness. The full study is available [online](#).

Public Health Laboratories and Radiological Readiness

In this study, the Association of Public Health Laboratories conducted two surveys of public health laboratories in the US on overall lab capacity and specifically on radiation readiness. According to the study, public health lab radiological testing capacities would be "insufficient" in the event of a major emergency. The full text of the article is available [online](#).

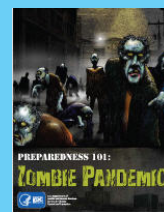
Alternative Vaccination Schedule Preferences Among Parents of Young Children

(Pediatrics, Vol 128, No 5, November 2011)

Researchers from the University of Michigan explore the use of alternative vaccination schedules among parents of children 6 months to 6 years of age, along with the flexibility of parents' attitudes on vaccination schedule choices. The study found that 13% of parents reported following an alternative vaccination schedule. Of these parents, 53% refused only certain vaccines while 55% delayed some vaccines until the child was

Looking for a fun new way to teach emergency preparedness?

Checkout Preparedness 101: Zombie Pandemic, CDC's graphic novel which introduces the importance of preparedness in a creative new format. Follow Todd, Julie, and Max as they navigate through a world over taken by the undead. A surprising twist at the end will have you thinking about what you can do to be prepared for all emergencies. [MORE...](#)



Bioresponse Report Card

The Bipartisan WMD Terrorism Research Center developed a report card on the status of the US bio-response capabilities. The report card is designed to provide broad context to policy-makers and government leaders for setting priorities.



The WMD Center found in order to improve on the scores contained on the report card there are three areas that should be focused on: Leadership that sets clear priorities and engenders commitment and unity of effort; mobilizing "whole of nation" response planning; and sustained investment in purpose-driven science. The full report is available [online](#).

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November 4, 2011

older. Factors significantly associated with higher odds of using an alternative schedule were non-black race and not having a regular health care provider for the child. Among parents following the recommended vaccination schedule, 28% thought that delaying vaccine doses was safer than the schedule they used, and 22% disagreed that the best vaccination schedule to follow was the one recommended by vaccination experts. The article is being highlighted at the fall regional immunization conferences and can be found [online](#).

Place, Not Race, May Be a Larger Determinant of Health Disparities

Where you live could play a larger role in health disparities than originally thought, according to a [new study](#) by researchers from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. They examined a racially integrated, low-income neighborhood in Baltimore, Maryland and found that with the exception of smoking, nationally reported disparities in hypertension, diabetes, obesity among women and use of health services disappeared or narrowed. The results are featured in the October 2011 issue of Health Affairs.



Homeland Security

GAO Report: Progress Made and Challenges Remaining in Sharing Terrorism-Related Information

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) published a statement to the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs concerning the progress of information sharing of terrorism-related information post 9/11. Lack of information sharing was a major factor that contributed to the failure to prevent the 9/11 terrorist attack. The results of several GAO studies on terrorism preparedness were cited in support of the assessment that while the government continues to make progress in sharing terrorism-related information with security partners, a fully functioning information sharing environment (ISE) is not yet in place. The full statement can be found [online](#).



Surveillance & Epidemiology

CDC: Deadliest Listeria Outbreak in 25 Years

An outbreak of listeria in cantaloupe is now linked to 116 people who have been sickened, which includes 23 deaths, making it the deadliest known outbreak of foodborne illness in the USA in more than 25 years. More information on the outbreak is available [online](#).

Q Fever Outbreak Associated with Goat Farms

MMWR reports an outbreak of Q fever associated with goat farms in Washington state and Montana. The Washington State Department of Health and Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services requested CDC assistance to characterize the extent of the Q fever outbreak, distribute Q-fever information, and identify persons at risk for infection. No deaths were reported; four of 20 persons were hospitalized, and five were asymptomatic. The states have received no additional reports of Q fever since July, 2011. The full report is available [online](#).





50th anniversary of MMWR

This year, MMWR celebrates its 50-year anniversary. The first issue of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report was published on January 13, 1961 at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Since that inaugural issue, the venerable publication has featured thousands of timely and credible reports on a wide range of public health issues of great importance to both the nation and the world. The October 7th [supplement](#) celebrates MMWR's anniversary and the contribution it has made to CDC and public health with an article covering a half century span of the history of vaccine preventable diseases and the MMWR.

Regional News

Joint Letter from MHA and MDCH - Hospital Influenza Vaccination Policies

Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) sent a message to their member hospitals on the importance of flu vaccination for patient safety and to protect health care personnel. This joint letter from MDCH and MHA outlines the importance of vaccinating healthcare personnel against the flu and describes available materials and resources to further explore the implementation of mandatory vaccination policies. Materials and resources are posted on the [MHA Web site](#) including talking points and a sample mandatory hospital policy. Or visit [MDCH's Web site](#) on Health Care Personnel and Flu Vaccine.

National News

Local Health Departments Cut Services This Year

A new [NACCHO survey](#) confirms budget cuts and job losses continue to undermine local public health departments. Survey results show that 55 percent of all local health departments reduced or eliminated at least one program, with services for mothers and children among the hardest hit. The reductions occurred from July 2010 to June 2011. Other areas experiencing significant reductions included emergency preparedness, immunizations, chronic disease screening, and personal health services such as home health care and mental health services. Visit [NACCHO's website](#) to learn more.



BARDA 2011-2015 Strategic Plan

the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) issued the [BARDA Strategic Plan 2011-2016](#), which articulates the guiding principles, goals, and strategies it will implement to enhance the capability of the U.S. government to develop medical countermeasures (MCMs) to these and other natural and intentional threats to public health.

BARDA develops and procures needed medical countermeasures, including vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and non-pharmaceutical countermeasures, against a broad array of public health threats, whether natural or intentional in origin. The full Strategic Plan and more information is available [online](#).

National Strategic Plan for Public Health Preparedness and Response

Led by Dr. Ali S. Khan and the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, preparedness leaders internal and external to CDC have collaboratively developed The [National Strategic Plan](#) for Public Health

Preparedness and Response. The plan is a guide for CDC, the entire public health system, and its stakeholders to secure the health of the nation and attain the plan's collective 2020 vision of "people's health protected – public health secured". The plan is designed to stimulate scientific and technological innovations, raise the visibility of public health security, and promote the training of the next generation of public health leaders.



2012 Model Practices Submissions Opened October 10th

NACCHO is accepting local health department model practice applications October 10 – November 11, 2011. This program showcases outstanding local public health practices through the Models Practices Database, the NACCHO Exchange publication, and at the NACCHO Annual Meeting. For more information, visit NACCHO [Model Practices Web site](#).

National Cyber Security Awareness Month

October 2011 marks the eighth annual National Cyber Security Awareness Month. This year's National Cyber Security Awareness Month is sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in cooperation with the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). Through a series of events and initiatives across the country, Awareness Month engages public and private sector partners to raise awareness and educate Americans about cybersecurity, and increase the resiliency of the Nation and its cyber infrastructure. Click [HERE](#) to find out how everyone can do their part to practice cybersecurity during National Cybersecurity Awareness Month and throughout the year. A series of Get Involved sheets provide suggestions on how you can raise awareness in your community.

Tools & Resources

A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words

Where can you get free public health images that are copyright cleared, print quality and ready for use on Web sites or in promotional copy? The CDC's Public Health Image Library (PHIL) has been updated with new images. Visit the [PHIL on the Web](#).

The Ready Rating™ Program Prepares Businesses, Organizations and Schools for Emergencies

Ready Rating™ is a free, self-paced, Web-based membership program that helps a business or school measure how ready they are to deal with emergencies, and gives customized feedback on how they can improve their efforts. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Check out CDC's Carbon Monoxide Toolkit

The CDC's [Carbon Monoxide Toolkit](#) includes bill inserts, point-of-sale flyers, web banners, and print PSAs. Also included, a Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention video package with large number short B-roll videos with great "how-to" information covering topics like CO alarm installation and the proper way to use a generator to run a refrigerator.

Training & Events

CDC Training for Front-Line Laboratories: READY? SET? TEST! Patient Testing is Important - Get the Right Results

This [online course](#) promotes good laboratory practices to assure the quality of patient testing, especially in physician office laboratories. The program includes practice exercises, job aids, and real-life testing scenarios to reinforce the learning process. Continuing education credits for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and others are offered until September 2013.

Exercise Evaluation Webinar

Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 1-2 p.m.

Gain insight and knowledge to improve or sustain your exercise program. Improve state and local responders' ability to evaluate public health exercises. Topics: Exercise Evaluation Process, Identification and Training of Evaluators, Exercise Evaluation Guides (EEGs), and After Action Reports (AARs).

URL: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join/>

Conference number: PW8811383, Audience passcode: 4834341,

Audio dial-in number: (800) 857-1738

Date/Time	Event	Location
October 25, 2011 1-2 pm	<u>Community Health Resilience Workshop 2011</u> The theme of the workshop is Developing a Health Information Sharing and Situational Awareness Framework. The workshop will be an open dialogue that identifies information requirements, capabilities, and areas of cooperation among government, the private sector, and non-profit communities.	Washington, DC
October 29 - November 2, 2011	<u>Emergency Preparedness & Hazmat Response Conference</u> Sponsor: Pittsburgh Regional Business Coalition for Homeland Security & U.S. EPA Region III This all-hazards conference for government and industry offers education, training, and networking with key decision makers in emergency preparedness and prevention. In addition to a broad variety of workshops, the conference offers a number of longer training programs, ranging from four hours to two days, all of which are included in the registration fee.	Pittsburgh, PA
January 17-19, 2012	<u>International Disaster Conference and Exposition</u> Public and Private sectors engage in problem solving, planning and preparation, discussing relevant issues dealing with Emergency Management, Homeland Security, First Response, LossMitigation,BusinessContinuity,and more.	New Orleans, LA
March 21-25, 2012	<u>American Counseling Association 2012 Annual Conference</u> With focus on disaster mental health, social media, military members and their families, and the revised edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), DSM-V, this conference will feature pre-conference learning institutes and conference education sessions.	San Francisco, CA



Mailing Address:

Office of Public Health Preparedness

Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913

(517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>

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